

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03

H-02 SS-15 /064 W

----- 037197

R 221820Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5263

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, CA, XF, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA SERVICE TO NICE AND MIDDLE EAST

REF: PARIS 23360 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY-GOF PREPARED EXCEPTIONALLY AUTHORIZE TWA
OPERATE GENEVA-NICE WITHOUT TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN THESE
TWO POINTS. SWISS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE AUTHORIZED WITH-
OUT RESTRICTIONS. DURING CAB CHAIRMAN ROBSON'S VISIT
GOF SERVED NOTICE IT PLANNED "FORMALIZE" ABOVE AUTHORI-
ZATION WITH US AND FURTHER EXPRESSED DESIRE SEE RESOLVED
"AT THE SAME TIME" AIR FRANCE PETITION NOW PENDING
BEFORE CAB FOR SUBSTITUTION TORONTO FOR MONTREAL ON
PARIS-LOS ANGELES ROUTE. CAB CHAIRMAN GAVE GOF NO
COMMITMENT WHATEVER THIS REGARD. GOF HAS NO OBJECTION
TO PROPOSED INCREASE BY TWA IN FREQUENCIES TO CAIRO
PLUS CONTINUATION TO BAHRAIN AND JIDDA, BUT TWA TELLS
US EGYPTIANS HAVE DISAPPROVED SERVICE TO LATTER TWO
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POINTS. END SUMMARY

2. DGCA HAS AUTHORIZED TWA TO OPERATE GENEVA-NICE SERVICE FOR PERIOD SEPT. 9-OCT. EQ AS REQUESTED INITIALLY BY TWA AS WELL AS DURING PERIOD OF WINTER SCHEDULE COMMENCING NOV. 1. (TWA WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANYWAY OPENING NICE SERVICE UNTIL EARLY NOV.) IN LETTER TO TWA CONTAINING SEPT. 9-OCT. 31 AUTHORIZATION (COPY OF WHICH DGCA SENT TO EMBASSY), DGCA NOTED THAT WHILE GENEVA-NICE WAS NOT APPROVED ROUTE UNDER US-FRANCE CIVAIR BILATERAL, DGAC WAS NONETHELESS AUTHORIZING ON TEMPORARY BASIS THOUGH WITHOUT TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN GENEVA AND NICE.

3. TWA INFORMS US THEY HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE SWISS TO OPERATE WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES.

4. DURING CAB CHAIRMAN ROBSON'S MEETING IN PARIS SEPT. 17 WITH ABRAHAM OF DGCA, ABRAHAM RAISED QUESTION OF GENEVA-NICE APPROVAL IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORTS BY AIR FRANCE TO SECURE CAB APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN ROUTING OF PARIS-LOS ANGELES SERVICE VIA CANADA. AIR FRANCE HAD APPARENTLY ERRED IN ITS INITIAL COMMUNICATION TO CAB BY GIVING IMPRESSION THAT AIR FRANCE WISHED TO SERVE TORONTO AS WELL AS MONTREAL ON ABOVE ROUTE, WHEREAS WHAT AIR FRANCE WANTS IS TO SUBSTITUTE TORONTO FOR MONTREAL AND TO TERMINATE SERVICE TO MONTREAL AT END OF SEPTEMBER. THIS CHANGE RESULTS FROM RECENT CIVAIR TALKS BETWEEN GOF AND CANADA. ESPEROU, WHO WAS PRESENT ALONGSIDE ABRAHAM, SAID DGCA WOULD SHORTLY BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY TO "FORMALIZE" APPROVAL OF GENEVA-NICE SERVICE BY TWA, AND HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF REQUESTING "CONSULTATIONS" FOR THIS PURPOSE. CAA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IF DGCA WISHED TO "FORMALIZE" .../...

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AMCONSUL NICE

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ITS APPROVAL, THEN ALL THAT SEEMED REQUIRED WAS A SIMPLE EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONFIRMING THAT DGCA AUTHORIZATION WAS EXCEPTIONAL AND OUTSIDE SCOPE OF EXISTING CIVAIR BI-LATERAL. WHEN IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION LATER ON THAT SAME DAY ESPEROU AGAIN BROUGHT UP AIR FRANCE'S TORONTO/MONTREAL PROBLEM IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENEVA-NICE APPROVAL, CAA ASKED POINTEDLY WHETHER DGCA WAS LINKING THESE TWO QUESTIONS. ESPEROU DENIED THIS WAS THE CASE, BUT HE THEN ADDED BLANDLY THAT DGCA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TWO QUESTIONS DISPOSED OF "AT THE SAME TIME."

5. IN HIS MEETING WITH ABRAHAM, CHAIRMAN ROBSON DID NOT GO BEYOND RECALLING THAT AIR FRANCE PETITION WAS STILL BEFORE THE CAB BUT HE SAID HE WAS UNINFORMED ON THE EXACT CURRENT STATUS OF THE CASE. HE VOLUNTEERED NO INDICATION ON WHEN OR HOW THE CASE MIGHT BE DECIDED, NOR DID HE MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH ABRAHAM CLEARLY WISHED ESTABLISH BETWEEN THIS CASE AND DGCA APPROVAL OF GENEVA-NICE FOR TWA.

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6. TWA MANAGING DIRECTOR NICHOLS WILL BE IN NICE SEPT. 23-24 FOR TALKS WITH AIR FRANCE AND AIRPORT REPS CONCERNING REOPENING OF TWA STATION AT NICE AIRPORT. ALL HE HAS THUS FAR, HOWEVER, IS ORAL ASSURANCE FROM ESPEROU THAT DGCA AUTHORIZATION WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGH WINTER SCHEDULE PERIOD, SINCE DGCA HAS YET TO RESPOND IN WRITING TO TWA'S WINTER SCHEDULE FILING. WE AGREED WITH NICHOLS THAT HE SEEMED TO BE ON STRONG GROUND IN MOVING AHEAD TO FIRM UP ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TWA OPERATIONS AT NICE, SINCE ESPEROU WOULD CLEARLY BE GUILTY OF BAD FAITH IF DGCA WERE NOW TO BACK DOWN ON ORAL AUTHORIZATION THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO TWA (PRIOR TO ROBSON-ABRAHAM MEETING).

7. TWA'S INTEREST IN GENEVA-NICE ROUTE, INCIDENTALLY, STEMS FROM UNDERSTANDING REACHED WITH LOEW'S HOTEL CORP., WHEREBY LOEW'S HAS EXPRESSED READINESS PURCHASE AT LEAST FORTY-FIVE SEATS ON EACH TWICE WEEKLY FLIGHT TO NICE FOR CLIENTELE OF LOEW'S GAMBLING CASINO AT MONACO. GOF IS AWARE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.

8. COMMENT: REFTEL REPORTED TWA WASHINGTON BELIEF THAT AFTER LIKELY INITIAL REJECTION OF GENEVA-NICE FILING, DGCA COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND TO APPROVE SINCE GOF "OWED" TWA A FEW THINGS. DGCA ACTION IN APPROVING THE FILING AT THE OUTSET SUGGESTS, ON THE CONTRARY, THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT USG, AND NOT TWA, NOW "OWES" GOF SOMETHING, WHICH SOMETHING WILL HOPEFULLY BE FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF AIR FRANCE PETITION BY CAB. WE HAVE TOLD NICHOLS THAT EMBASSY SEES NO CHANCES FOR ANY SUCH TRADE-OFF, WITHOUT PREJUDICE OF COURSE TO WHAT-EVER THE IMPARTIAL CAB RULING MAY BE. THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS THAT IS ATTRACTING TWA TO NICE AS INDICATED PARA 7 ABOVE MIGHT ALSO MAKE IT A BIT DELICATE FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS STANDPOINT FOR USG TO INVOLVE ITSELF ACTIVELY IN DEFENSE OF THIS TRAFFIC AND THE ROUTE AUTHORIZATION.

9. TWA WINTER SCHEDULE FILED WITH DGCA ALSO LISTS

ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO CAIRO AND CONTINUATION BEYOND
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CAIRO TO BAHRAIN AND JIDDA. ESPEROU HAS INDICATED DGCA HAS NO OBJECTIONS, SINCE BEYOND PARIS TRAFFIC TO THESE POINTS IS AUTHORIZED UNDER US ROUTE GRANTS ANNEXED TO US-FRANCE BILATERAL. TWA INFORMS US, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE THIS PROPOSED TRAFFIC BEYOND CAIRO TO BAHRAIN AND JIDDA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR SCHEDULES, AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS27814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760358-0832
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760932/aaaabbir.tel
Line Count: 210
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 23360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: TWA SERVICE TO NICE AND MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: EAIR, FR, CA, XF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006